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CYPRUS: Greek ultimatum to be delivered to President Makarios.

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CYPRUS: ATHENS WILL DELIVER AN ULTIMATUM TO PRESIDENT MAKARIOS TODAY DEMANDING THAT HE TURN OVER HIS RECENTLY ACQUIRED CZECH ARMS TO THE UN FORCES AND FORM A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY.

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[REDACTED] GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER PALAMAS TOLD THE US AMBASSADOR THAT ATHENS DOES NOT WANT VIOLENCE AND WILL NOT MAKE USE OF GENERAL GRIVAS, BUT IF MAKARIOS RESISTS THE ULTIMATUM, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WILL APPEAL DIRECTLY TO THE GREEK CYPRIOT PEOPLE. ATHENS IS CONFIDENT THAT IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WOULD CHOOSE GREECE OVER MAKARIOS. IF NOT, SAID PALAMAS, HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER WITHDRAWING FROM THE ISLAND GREEK FORCES, WHICH SERVE TO COUNTERBALANCE THE MAINLAND TURKISH TROOPS ON CYPRUS. PALAMAS STRESSED THAT GREECE WILL NOT SIT IDLY BY IF FIGHTING BREAKS OUT--PRESUMABLY AMONG THE GREEK CYPRIOTS--AND HE SAID THAT ATHENS IS PREPARED TO EXERCISE ITS RIGHT OF INTERVENTION UNDER THE LONDON-ZURICH AGREEMENTS.

THESE THREATS REFLECT CONCERN WITHIN THE MAINLAND GREEK HIERARCHY THAT MAKARIOS WILL PRECIPITATE AN ARMED CLASH ON THE ISLAND. THE ULTIMATUM IS ALSO INTENDED TO DISCOURAGE TURKISH OVERREACTION ON THE ARMS ISSUE. PALAMAS SAID THAT ATHENS AND ANKARA ARE IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION AND THAT THE TURKS HAVE TOLD HIM THAT UNLESS THE ARMS QUESTION IS RESOLVED, THEY MIGHT SEND TROOPS AS WELL AS ARMS TO PROTECT THE TURKISH MINORITY. THERE IS NO INDICATION AS YET, HOWEVER, THAT ANKARA IS MAKING ACTIVE PREPARATIONS TO INTERVENE.

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[REDACTED] MAKARIOS IS NOT LIKELY TO GIVE IN ON THE ARMS ISSUE IN THE FACE OF THE GREEK ULTIMATUM, HOWEVER, AND IT NOW APPEARS THAT EVENTS ARE MOVING TOWARD A MAJOR CRISIS BETWEEN ATHENS AND THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT.

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